

Serial No.: 10/728,379

REMARKS

Claims 32, 33, and 54-68 are pending in the present application after this amendment adds new claims 65-68. Claims 55 and 57 are amended. No new matter is added by the amendments and new claims, which find support throughout the specification and figures. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner acknowledges that claims 32, 33, and 59-64 are allowed, and that claims 57 is directed to allowable subject matter. With the amendment of claim 57 into independent form including the features of its base claim 53, it is respectfully submitted that claim 57 is allowable.

Claims 54-56 and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Allegedly Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter referred as AAAPA). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 54 relates to an ESD protection circuit that includes, *inter alia*, a first bipolar transistor and a second bipolar transistor, said first and second bipolar transistors cooperating with one another to perform a SCR. The ESD protection circuit of claim 54 also includes *a trigger device adapted to trigger said first and second bipolar transistors substantially simultaneously*. In the circuit of claim 54, one end of said trigger device is connected to a base region of said first bipolar transistor, and another end of said trigger device is connected to a base region of said second bipolar transistor.

The Examiner asserts that the features of the claims are disclosed in figures 1 and 2 and the accompanying description of the instant application. In particular, the Examiner asserts that a trigger device is disclosed by anode 4 and cathode 9.

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Serial No.: 10/728,379

New claims 65-67 depend from claim 54 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 54 is allowable.

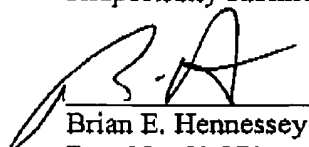
New claim 68 relates to an ESD protection circuit with several of the features of the ESD protection circuit claimed in claim 54. However, the trigger device in claim 68 is adapted to trigger said first and second bipolar transistors, and does not include the limitation that the triggering is substantially simultaneously. It is respectfully submitted therefore that for at least the same reasons discussed above in support of the allowability of claim 54, claim 68 is also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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